

### **REMARKS**

This Amendment and Response is responsive to a Final Office Action mailed by the Office on March 8, 2005. Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 1-22 and 27-29. Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's taking time to discuss the case with Applicant's representative on June 1, 2005.

In the amendment above, Applicant has cancelled claims 23-26. Applicant has cancelled these claims to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicant does not acquiesce to the rejection of these claims and reserves the right to continue pursuing these claims in a continuing application.

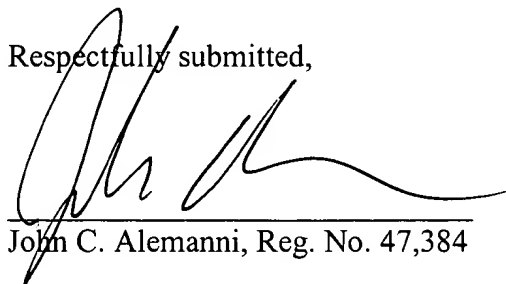
#### **I. Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance**

On pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the reasons for allowance are discussed. Under 37 C.F.R. §1.104(e), reasons for allowance are intended only as a supplement to the "record as a whole" when that record is not clear and shall not be treated as a substitute for the record or in a manner inconsistent with the record. Therefore, applicant accepts the Examiner's reasons only to the extent that they are consistent with the record as a whole prior to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, and does not accept any claim interpretation that is broader or narrower than that afforded by the record as a whole prior to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. No limitation or construction should be inferred from the Examiner's statement under rule 104(e).

## **II. Conclusion**

Applicant submits that all pending claims, 1-22 and 27-29 are in condition for allowance and respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (336) 607-7311 to discuss any matter related to the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John C. Alemanni', is written over a horizontal line.

Date: June 8, 2005

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